

REMARKS

Claim 20 has been amended to correct a grammatical error.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-38 stand rejected under 102(b) as anticipated by Miotto (U.S. Patent 6,406,093). Applicants respectfully disagree.

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner does not identify which structures in Miotto allegedly teach which claim limitations. The Examiner is required by 37 CFR 1.104 to clearly explain the pertinence of each reference. Nonetheless, Applicants will respond to the rejections as best they understand them.

Miotto teaches a seat assembly for an automobile. The seat assembly depicted in Figure 2 includes a frame member 22 with attachment portion 24, first trim material 80, second trim material 88, cushioning material 114, and clip 26. The clip 26 is attached to the first trim material 80 and is used to secure the first trim material 80 to the attachment portion 24.

Anticipation requires that the prior art reference teach each and every limitation of the claim. Miotto does not teach each and every element of any of the claims 1-38.

Regarding claim 1, Miotto does not teach a first securing member comprising a channel. Miotto also does not teach a fabric piece disposed around at least a portion of the securing member. Furthermore, Miotto does not teach a second securing member disposed around the first securing member with the fabric piece secured between the first and second securing members. Miotto does not teach any combination of elements with a fabric piece secured between the two elements. Therefore, claim 1 includes multiple claim limitations that are not taught or even suggested by Miotto. Claim 1 is not anticipated by Miotto and Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn. For the same reasons, Applicants request that the rejection of dependent claims 2-13 also be withdrawn.

Regarding claim 2, Miotto does not teach that one of the securing members comprises a ridge, and the other securing member comprises a channel, wherein the ridge is disposed in the channel. Neither of the first or second trim materials of Miotto discloses a ridge or a channel. Therefore, for these additional reasons, claim 2 is not anticipated by Miotto and Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn. For the same reasons, Applicants request that the rejection of dependent claims 3-13 also be withdrawn.

Regarding claim 14, Miotto does not teach a securing member comprising a first channel and a second channel, wherein the edge portion of a base element is disposed in the first channel and a fabric piece disposed within the second channel. Nothing in Miotto includes these elements. Miotto does not teach any fabric piece disposed in a channel. Therefore, claim 14, and dependent claims 15-19, are not anticipated by Miotto and Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding claim 20, Miotto does not teach a securing member with first and second arms defining an inner surface, the inner surface disposed around the edge portion of a base member, with the first arm including an inwardly facing lip engaging a base element and a piece of fabric attached to the outer surface of the securing member. Miotto does not teach two arms disposed around the edge of a base member. Furthermore, Miotto does not teach an arm with an inward facing lip engaging a base member. Therefore, claim 20, and dependent claims 21-29, are not anticipated by Miotto and Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding claim 31, Miotto does not teach a securing member disposed around a base element with the fabric piece secured between the base element and the securing member. Neither of the fabric pieces 80, 88 is secured between two elements. Therefore, claim 31 is not anticipated by Miotto and Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding claim 32, Miotto does not teach two securing members, where one of securing members comprises a ridge, and the other securing member

comprises a channel, wherein the ridge is disposed in the channel. Neither of the first or second trim materials of Miotto discloses a ridge or a channel. Therefore, claim 32 and dependent claim 33 are not anticipated by Miotto and Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

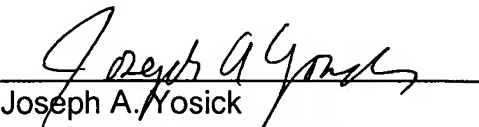
Regarding claim 34, Miotto does not teach the claimed method of attaching a piece of fabric to a furniture component. As a preliminary matter, as described above for claim 1, Miotto does not teach a first securing member comprising a channel or a second securing member disposed around the first securing member and thereby securing the piece of fabric therebetween. Furthermore, Miotto makes no mention of disposing an enlarged edge of a furniture component into a channel, or of disposing a second securing member around a first securing member and thereby securing the piece of fabric therebetween. Therefore, claim 34 and dependent claims 35-38 are not anticipated by Miotto and Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1-38 be withdrawn.

SUMMARY

Applicants believe the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any remaining issues, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph A. Yosick
Registration No. 51,062
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, IL 60610
(312) 321-4200